



Conference Programme

As of 22.07.26

Sunday, 23 August 2026

Informal Meet & Greet

Time / Location	Description
17:30 – 19:30 The Glass Goose, 78 Federal Street	Informal Meet & Greet Enjoy drinks, canapés, and great company as we gather pre-conference for a relaxed networking opportunity.

Bridge & Geotechnical Conference 2026

24-25 August 2026
NZICC, Auckland



Monday, 24 August 2026

Conference Day 1

Time / Location	Description			
07:30 Level 5, NZICC	Registration Desk & Exhibition Open			
08:15 – 09:00 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	Opening Ceremony Mihi Whakatau - Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei			
09:00 – 09:30 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	National Infrastructure Plan Invited Speaker: Peter Nunns (Te Waihanga, New Zealand Infrastructure Commission)			
9:30 – 10:30 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	The Evolution of the Role of Engineers in Bridge Engineering Keynote: Prof. Michel Virlogeux (Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées of Bridge Design and Construction)			
10:30 – 11:00 Foyer, Level 5	Morning Tea			
Session 1	1A: Pile Design, Verification, and Foundation Performance	1B: Pedestrian and Active-Mode Bridge Design	1C: Construction Techniques, Materials, and On-Site Innovation	1D: Managing Ageing and End-of-Life Bridges
11:00 – 12:45	Te Paepae Theatre 1	Room 505	Room 504	Room 503
11.00	Remedial Grouting Applications at Bridge Piers – Recent Case Studies from New Zealand Nathan Townsend Mark Frampton	Design and construction of the Brougham St Overbridge Andrew Mcmenamin	Ō2NL Earthworks Trial James Muirson	AHB truss bridge assessment and strengthening design for a major refurbishment project Jareth Dickson Ronald King
11.15	Bored pile design, construction and base grouting on the Takitimu North Link Stage 1 project Martin Barrientos Tim Pervan	Optimised bridge construction through the use of digital engineering and virtual construction Jonty Pretorius Bilel Ragued	Flatbush Stream Crossing Aruna Senanayake	Strengthening existing bridge assets with titanium alloy bars John Gin Brent England
11.30	Omanawa Replacement Bridge - Pile Design and Slope Stability Considerations Rhiannon Reardon	Balancing Seismic Performance and Construction Cost in Complex Bridge Design - Te Ara Tupua Bridge Tim Brook	Changes to NZTA geosynthetic approvals Dante Legaspi	Risk Mitigation Strategies for Protecting Bridges from Damage during Asphalt Deck Wearing Surface Resurfacing While Ensuring Long Term Durability Budi Soetanto

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Conference Day 1 (Continued)

11.45		Auckland Transport (AT) Modular Pedestrian Rail Crossings Willem Stolk	Design and Construction of Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil (GRS) Bridge Abutments in New Zealand Joshua Teal	Beyond the Temporary Crossing: Returning Te Puna to Service Steven Adams
12.00	Comparative Evaluation and Calibration of Friction Pile Design Methods in the Takaanini Formation Using Dynamic Pile Testing (PDA) David Guinibert	SH76 Brougham St Bridge – a case study in unlocking Contractor lead design change benefits Chris Hewitt Alistair Briffett	Temporary Works New Zealand History Mark Hedley	End of the Road: Long bridges facing end-of-life in remote NZ locations Victoria Worner
12.15	Geotechnical and Design Adaptations for Bridges and Embankments in South Auckland's Complex Terrain Lara Pieters	Waka Bridge – Balancing Cultural Integration with Design Integrity Dan Crocker		
12.30	River Scour Resilience Improvement using Micropile and mass concrete construction in extreme locations: Resilience Improvement Works on SH6 at the Gates of Haast, Westland, South Island, NZ Rob Bond	Hooker Bridge 2 - Longest spanning footbridge in NZ (189m) Dan Crocker		
12:45 – 13:45 Foyer, Level 5	Lunch			
Session 2	2A: Collaborative Delivery and Early Contractor Involvement	2B: Standards, Design Codes, and Guidance Updates	2C: City Rail Link	2D: Asset Risk, Access and Network Performance
13:45 – 15:15	Te Paepae Theatre 1	Room 505	Room 504	Room 503
13.45	Muriwai Golf Course Bridge - Collaborative, Constructability Driven Design Development in Practice Nick Denham Willem Stolk		The buried bridge: geotechnical lessons from the CRL Eastern Grade Separation Joshua Teal Zhilong Liu	From Reactive to Proactive: A Smarter Way to Anticipate and Manage Road Network Risks from Natural Hazard events Natalia Uran

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14.00	Standardised Superstructure Replacement: DfMA for Rapid, Resilient, Cost Effective Superstructure Renewal Richard Parkin Amor Acapulco	Progress on New Traffic Load Models for the Bridge Manual Nigel Lloyd Andrew Dickson	Porters Avenue Footbridge: Integrating Geotechnical Complexity, Seismic Performance and Constructability within the CRL Programme Ben Ryder	Marine Borer Risk Assessment in KiwiRail Bridge Assets Rudolph Kotze
14.15	Collaboration: A specialist Subcontractors perspective Jayden Mellsop	Global Review of Standard Bridge Beams Jeremy Waldin	City Rail Link: Geotechnical Challenges and Lessons Learnt Francis Dudouit Wataru Okada	Austroads Bridge Assessment Guideline: Heavy Vehicles Peter Shaw Andrew Dickson
14.30	From Data to Decisions: How Real-Time Concrete Monitoring Accelerated Construction of the Rā Hīhi Viaduct Jeremy Pownall Neha Raphael	Proposed updates to NZTA Waka Kotahi standard precast concrete beam drawings Izzy Cattermole Rhys Rogers	Design and Construction of Diaphragm Walls for City Rail Link Kevin Anderson	Bridge and structure asset management challenges and opportunities. Taupō District transport asset management case study Ivan Nikitin
14.45	Adverse Ground and Groundwater Conditions at the Eco-viaduct, Te Ahu A Turanga, Southern Ruahine Range, Manawatū Philip Kirk	Standardisation of NZTA Structures and Geotechnical Assets – an overview Moustafa Al-ani	Earth pressures in ECBF for economical geotechnical design Aidan Thorp	KiwiRail Business as Usual Kyle Blyth
15.00	Te Reinga Bridge – The Big Lift Natasha Jokhan Yu-Shen Liu	Train Loading – how much is too much? Marin Begovic Lars Schmidt	Fenton Street Bridge- Design and Construction Challenges Jenny Zhang	
15:15 – 15:45 Foyer, Level 5	Afternoon Tea			
Session 3	3A: Seismic Geotechnical Design and Soil-Structure Interaction	3B: Materials Performance, Durability and Fatigue	3C: Sustainable and Circular Design for Bridge Infrastructure	3D: Ground Improvement and Construction Response to Challenging Conditions
15:45 – 17:30	Te Paepae Theatre 1	Room 505	Room 504	Room 503
15.45	Seismic Design of Southern Wharf Extension at Sulphur Point, Port of Tauranga Wataru Okada	Evaluating the efficacy of laser ablation on steel bridges Raed El Sarraf	Finite Element Analysis for Validating Structural Reinforcements in Steel Girders of a Railway Composite Bridge Carlos Alberto Medeiros	Rethinking Installation Damage of Soil Reinforcement Geosynthetic. Maximum Particle Size is Not the Right Predictor Scott Judd

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Conference Day 1 (Continued)

16.00	Seismic resilience and practicality – ground improvement design on te wai takamori o te awa kairangi alliance Kevin Anderson	The latest in NZ steelwork durability guidance for painting bridges Raed El Sarraf	"Circular Design Framework – Circulating Infrastructure at Its Highest Value Allington Road Culvert – A Circular Design Case Study" Jamil Khan Faiz Towfeek	Use of a Trial Embankment for Design Optimisation at the Mount Messenger Bypass Razel Ramildo Dani Thompson
16.15	New Melling River Bridge - Advanced analysis for onerous soil structure interactions and fault rupture within spans Ella Matuschka Kelsy Seyb	Composite Sleepers for Unballasted Rail Bridges: Early New Zealand Experience Adriano Mohr Bonatto	What we learnt from the design of a 162m long timber road bridge in Kakanui New Zealand Anton Kivell	Bridge approaches - Managing the high-risk transition zone between flexible and rigid structures Robin Power
16.30	Role of sensitivity analyses in soil-structure interaction analyses of pile foundations: a case study Mikias Yohannes	Design & Construction of a modular InQuik bridge in New Zealand Mike Wright	KiwiRail - Standardised Reinforced Concrete Ballast Tray Spans Nick Broad Matt Ireland	Rock characterisation for pile socket design of multiple bridges in South Auckland Gregory Pinches
16.45	Approach to liquefaction assessment in variable alluvial soils Russell Allison	Development of a new coarse-thread positional coupler and of its validation test program Emanuele Naccini		Innovations in Geotechnical design at Duck Creek Road on O Mahurangi Penlink Aaron Fox
17.00	Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass - Cost-Effective Seismic Resilience through Performance Based Geotechnical Design Hayden Bowen	Material-Driven Design of Network Arch Bridges: Carbon Fibre Hangers for High Fatigue Demands – The Oder Bridge Case Study Valentin Bemetz	Co-Designing the Mimiha Stream Bridge: Cultural Partnership Shaping Engineering Outcomes Jared Flynn	NZTA Geotechnical Asset Management and Monitoring Systems Sivaram Thirumoorthy
17.15	Bridge Abutment Performance on Soft and Liquefiable Alluvial Soils: A Comparative Study of Mitigation Options Farbod Yarmohammadi	Ten Years of Heat of Hydration in Practice: Lessons Every Civil Structures Engineer Should Know Tom Watson	Bridging Track and Geotechnical Design in Transition Zones Brendon Gill	Preliminary Geotechnical Appraisal: Making the Difference at SH1N Te Hana, Northland Sigfrid Dupre
17:30 Room 505	BETS AGM			
18:00 Foyer, Level 5	Pre-Dinner Drinks			
18:30 – 22:30 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	Conference Dinner			

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Tuesday, 25 August 2026

Conference Day 2

Time / Location	Description			
07:30 Level 5, NZICC	Registration Desk & Exhibition Open			
08:30 – 08:45 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	Day 2 Opening BRIDGE Programme Update			
08:45 – 09:45 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	Load-carrying Geosynthetic-reinforced Bridge Abutments Keynote: Prof. Jorge G. Zornberg (The University of Texas at Austin)			
9:45 – 10:15 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	Building Resilience in Railways – a KiwiRail Perspective Invited Speaker: Dr. Romy Ridl (KiwiRail)			
10:15 – 10:45 Foyer, Level 5	Morning Tea			
Session 4	4A: Ground Improvement for Bridge Foundations and Earth Structures	4B: Performance-Based Design, Seismic Philosophy, and Resilience	4C: Cyclone Recovery and Flood Resilience	4D: Strategic Asset Management, Resilience and Investment
10:45 – 12:45	Te Paepae Theatre 1	Room 505	Room 504	Room 503
10.45	Design & Construction of Complex Slip Remedial Works Gunasekaran Mookaiya	Fitting Design Philosophy to Affordability and Performance Expectations Kelsy Seyb	Design and Construction challenges of 15.5 m span multiplate arch culvert across Whanaukini Stream at Kereru Gorge 3 Sivalingam Ilamaram	Development of the Highway Structures Operations and Maintenance Manual Jeremy Waldin
11.00	Constructability-Led design of Bridge Abutment Ground Improvement in Highly Liquefiable Soils – SH1 Loop Road Upgrade, Otaika Creek Bridge Lance Vazey	Sh2 interchange bridge design: designing for extreme fault rupture in a constrained corridor Melanie Regino Anton Stanisich	From Chasm to Culvert; Applicable Lessons from Kererū Gorge Robert Ferguson	Developments in Bridge Capacity Assessment and Access Management Dewi Todd-Jones Andrew Dickson
11.15	Performance of compacted aggregate piers for liquefaction mitigation beneath bridge abutments: Papamoa East Interchange Case Study Marianne Rogers	Highgate Bridge: Collaborative Structural, Geotechnical and Durability Design in Northland Allochthon Willem Stolk	Designing Bridges for Inundation: Interpretation of Flood Loading in New Zealand James Mortimer	Standardised superstructure replacement - delivery and construction Nick Mohamed Richie Parkin

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11.30	Ground Improvement and Soil–Structure Interaction for Bridge and Buildings on Soft and Liquefiable Ground: The Drury Rail Stations Case Study Kushant Kishore Ross Kaufusi	Non-Linear Time History Analysis of O2NL Single-span Bridges Charanjit Singh	Geotechnical Challenges and Resilient Design in Rebuilding Hawke’s Bay Bridges Damaged by Cyclone Gabrielle Paulo Alves	Natural Hazard Life Cycle Costs for Bridges at End of Life Ben Baty
11.45	Destructuration and Capacity of Sensitive Glaciogenic Silts: Field Lessons from the New Zealand West Coast Andy O'Sullivan	Te Reinga – New Zealand's First Weathering Steel Network Arch Bridge Daryn Hobbs	Rebuilding Resilience: Designing the new Moteo-Puketapu Bridge after Cyclone Gabrielle Charanjit Singh	Bridge Maintenance: The Unloved Cousins of Asset Management Eric Singh
12.00	Landslide Stabilisation using Bored Drains at Fill 18, O Mahurangi Penlink Project Simon Farquhar	Bridging the Gap Between Design and Construction Kyron Day	Bridge Performance Under Extreme Flooding: Hydraulic Capacity and Scour Lessons from Cyclone Freddy in Malawi Precious Kamndaya	Acrow temporary modular bridges - introducing NZTA's modern Bailey bridge service Victoria Worner
12.15	WBOPDC No 4 Bridge - Slope stability risk assessment for bridge approach design Pedro Martins	Tutaekuri River Bridge – Founding in a confined aquifer Steve Adams	Early Contractor Involvement in Post Disaster Bridge Delivery: A Contractors perspective Joel Hodgson	
12.30	Emergency Slope Stabilisation with Evolving Ground Conditions: Collaboration on the Brynderwyn Hills Resilience Project Francis Main	Silverstream Pipe Bridge – resilient, robust design with excellent sustainability outcomes Liam Hall	Right-Sized Resilience: Client Lessons from Cyclone Gabrielle’s Bridge-Rebuild Programme David Scrimgeour	
12:45 – 13:45 Foyer, Level 5	Lunch			
Session 5	5A: Constructability-Led Design and Accelerated Bridge Delivery	5B: Advanced Analysis and Design of Long-Span Bridge Structures	5C: Research-Led Advances in Bridge and Geotechnical Engineering	5D: Digital Inspection, Data and Asset Intelligence
13:45 – 15:15	Te Paepae Theatre 1	Room 505	Room 504	Room 503
13.45	Standardised Precast Deck Panels for Steel Composite Bridges Cameron Weir	Parahaki Bridge – Seismic resistance during construction of a balanced cantilever bridge Bill Van Nick Bamford	Face the Hazard Lars Schmidt	Ormondville Rail Viaduct timber rail beam structural monitoring Rudolph Kotze

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14.00	Value for Money Bridge Design on Otaki to North of Levin Ted Polley	A practical application of AI in designing the Weiti River Bridge Sam Lichtwark	Engineering Resilient, Sustainable and Cost-Effective Transport Infrastructure Under Escalating Seismic, Climatic and Financial Pressures – Utopia or Reality? Pathmanathan Brabhaharan	Watercare Bridge Photogrammetric Condition Assessments Oliver Lumb
14.15	Belfast to Pegasus and Otaki to North Levin – Bridge Standardisation Matthew Montgomery	Design and Testing of Large Scale Laminated Elastomeric Bearings for the Wēiti River Bridge Mehdi Sarrafzadeh	Cost efficient civil structures design that ticks the other boxes Phil Gaby	10 Years of HSIMS: A Retrospective Tim Cross Lushi Cai
14.30	Widening of two aging bridges on SH16 Terry Cheng	Computational Design in the Analysis of the Wēiti River bridge Agnes Curras Freixes Kimberley Twigden	Updates to the Seismic Design of State Highway Transport Structures Moustafa Al-ani	Digital Foundations for Resilient Bridge Asset Management in Auckland Gang Yu Paul Jenkinson
14.45	Fast-tracking End of Life Bridge Replacements Vincent Wong	The Design and Construction of the 3rd Bosphorus Bridge (part 1) Michel Virlogeux	Seismic Design of State Highway Soil Structures Luke Storie	Accurate Measurement of Structural Cracks at Long Range Using Consumer Cameras (Physics only, no AI) Egor Volkov
15.00	When Is a Bridge Really Necessary? Lessons from the Northland Corridor Project Jono Watkins	The Design and Construction of the 3rd Bosphorus Bridge (part 2) Michel Virlogeux	Exposure of transport networks to natural hazards in New Zealand Liam Wotherspoon	
15:15 – 15:45 Foyer, Level 5	Afternoon Tea – final chance to connect with exhibitors!			
15:45 – 17:00 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	NZTA Plenary Followed by Panel Discussion: Standardisation: From Concept to Construction – Doing More with Less			
17:00 – 17:15 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	Conference Closing			